

March 9, 1936.

9-3482-10

Special Agent in Charge,  
Des Moines, Iowa.

RE: CARLOD FORTYTH, aka E. H. HART,  
Victim: BIRTHDAY.

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of February 28, 1936,  
transmitting the fingerprints of Cayland Fortyth, suspect, in  
connection with the above-entitled case.

You are advised that a review of this case has disclosed  
that no latent fingerprints of value were previously developed.

A check of the fingerprints of Cayland Fortyth through  
the latent fingerprint files of the Bureau has disclosed the follow-  
ing records:

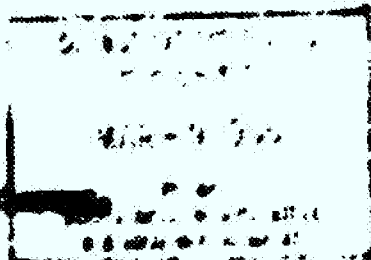
Subject as Cayland A. Fortyth, #75-200, United  
States Marshal, Fort Dodge, Iowa, arrested  
February 25, 1936, charge mail threatening letter.

Subject as Cayland A. Fortyth, #1281, Police  
Department, Fort Dodge, Iowa, arrested February 25,  
1936, charge mail threatening letter.

The duplicate fingerprint card for Fortyth is returned  
herewith inasmuch as only one copy is needed for the Bureau's files.

Very truly yours,  
For the Director,

Harold E. Rother,  
Assistant Director.



cc - Des Moines.

Handwritten initials and numbers: "GWD" and "1014".

March 2, 1938

9-3482 - 11  
Special Agent in Charge,  
Los Angeles, California.

Re: ~~REDACTED~~ b7C  
Clark Cable - Victim;  
Extortion.

Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith the laboratory report covering the examination of specimens submitted by your office in connection with the above entitled matter and received in the Bureau February 24, 1938.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover  
John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

cc - Los Angeles  
Enclosure:



EW  
PWS:SP

URGENT

March 11, 1936

9-3485-6

Special Agent in Charge,  
Los Angeles, California.

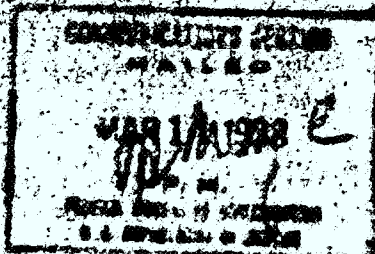
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ b7C  
Clark Gable - Victim;  
Extortion.

Dear Sir:

With reference to Laboratory Report # 22967 . in connection with the above entitled case, there are transmitted herewith photographic copies of the following specimens which your office submitted for examination:

Q1 and Q2.

cc-San Diego



Very truly yours,  
E. A. Tamm

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

Enclosure

# G-Men Arrest Farmer In Gable Extortion

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Bureau of Investigation announced last night it had taken into custody a man alleged to have written an extortion note to Clark Gable, using the name of a woman neighbor against whom the man had a "grudge."

The bureau said Gaylord Perry, 35 years old, of Pampa, Iowa, was alleged to writing "an extortion note to the motion picture actor asking payment of \$1,000 'or your life or your future'."

The note, the bureau said, was written over the signature of Alice Schmeidler also of Pampa, but Perry said she had no knowledge of the extortion plot and that he signed the name to the letter as a spite proposition as he had a grudge against her.

"The writer stated upon interview," the bureau added, "that she knew nothing whatsoever about the extortion letter."

The letter, the bureau said, was postmarked Pampa and dated Feb. 3, addressed to Gable at Hollywood, Cal. The letter was referred to the bureau upon receipt. The correspondence said:

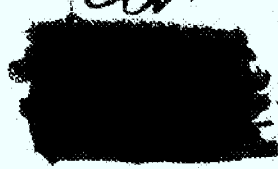
"Perry would not admit," the bureau said, "that he had additional plans for obtaining the money from Clark Gable as the result it was mailed to Alice Schmeidler."

In investigation, the bureau said, it showed that the woman is respectable and came from a well-to-do family.

Perry has been employed as a farm laborer in the vicinity of Pampa, the bureau said.

The case will be presented to the United States attorney at Pampa city, Iowa. The bureau said, adding that meanwhile Perry was being held in the county jail at Pampa, Iowa.

*Ear*



*b7c*

NEWARK LEDGER  
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY  
FEBRUARY 22, 1938  
SUBMITTED BY NEWARK DIVISION

*9-3482-76*



**He Tells  
G-Men Act When  
Star Reveals  
Threat**



**CAROLE LOMBARD**

**CLARK GABLE**

"Send \$1,000 right away, and tell me one, or else..." That was part of a letter received by Clark Gable. Whether he told his current heart, Carole Lombard, is not known. However, Gable did tell G-men, who are holding a suspect. International News Photo.

**U. S. Jury to Act  
In Gable Threat**

Special to the New York Journal and American.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Federal officials today ordered representatives in Mason City, Ia., to take Grand Jury action against Gaylord Forsythe, 26, arrested for allegedly sending an extortion letter to Clark Gable, motion picture star.

Forsythe is said to have admitted to police that he wrote a threatening letter to Gable last Feb. 9. The message was signed with the name of "Alfred Hitchcock," member of a prominent Iowa family, who had no knowledge of the threat.

"If you value your life or your future," the letter warned, "then send \$1,000 right away, and tell me one, or else..."

Clipping from

NEW YORK JOURNAL

FEB 25 1935

DATE

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK OFFICE

9-3482-10

b7c

## THREATENS GABLE TO IMPLICATE GIRL

### Fired Farm Hand Admits Sending Extortion Note.

PONDA, Iowa, Feb. 26 (U. P.).—An unemployed farm worker admitted to Federal agents today that he sent a \$1,000 extortion note to Clark Gable to spite a young widow who had spurned his love.

Gaylor Forsyth, 30 years old, mailed the note to the movie actor two weeks ago, signing the name of Mrs. Alice Schmetter, 28, a farmer's daughter. He said he had had no plans for anything more than sending the letter.

"I did it for spite," he said. "She wouldn't pay any attention to me. Her father wouldn't let me on his place."

Forsyth was taken to the county jail at Ponderosa by U. S. Marshal L. M. Chapman, chief of the Des Moines office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said Forsyth, who has no criminal record, was found through his handwriting.

Mrs. Schmetter told Chapman she had had "one or two" dates with Forsyth but had ignored him since.

Forsyth returned recently from Florida, where he had worked in the kitchen of a Miami night club.

Forsyth's arrest preserved Gable's record against would-be extortioners. Two years ago Mrs. Victor Wells Martin, an English woman, filed suit against him, charging that he was the father of her daughter. Gable proved he had never been in England. Mrs. Martin was deported to Canada this week.

Clipping from  
NEW YORK SUN

DATE: FEB 25 1934

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK DIVISION

**Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice**

739 Insurance Exchange Building  
Des Moines, Iowa  
February 26, 1938

Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
United States Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

Re: <sup>0</sup>  
CAYLOE FORSYTH;  
CLARK GABLE - VICTIM.  
EXTORTION.

Dear Sir:

Kindly furnish the known criminal record of the following:

<u>Name (inc. aliases)</u>	<u>City, Police Arrest, or Other Number.</u>	<u>Approximate date Fin- gerprints forwarded Federal Bureau of In- vestigation.</u>	<u>Fingerprint Classifica- tion.</u>
67C [REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	Forwarded; 2-28-38 to Technical Laboratory	

F. B. I. [REDACTED]

Forwarded; 2-28-38

to Technical Laboratory

*step: [unclear]*

*Reply*

CHL:ac  
9-16

Very truly yours,

*L. E. Chipman*  
L. E. CHIPMAN,  
Special Agent in Charge

9-3482-12	
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
MAR 2 1938 P. M.	
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

68

105/100  
Enc. File

March 7, 1933.

Special Agent in Charge,  
Des Moines, Iowa.

Re: GAYLORD POSEYTH;  
CLARK GABLE - Victim.  
Kidnaping.

Dear Sir:

Receipt is acknowledged of your communication  
dated February 22, 1933, regarding the following:

GAYLORD POSEYTH, Bureau Field Division,  
Des Moines, Iowa, I—.

In reply thereto, please be advised that from  
the information furnished it has not been possible to  
locate any record in the fingerprint files of the Federal  
Bureau of Investigation.

Very truly yours,



John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.

*[Handwritten signature]*



THE PITTSBURGH POST-GAZETTE  
Pittsburgh, Pa., Feb. 25, 1938  
2-25-38

# JUST FOR SPITE HE THREATENS GABLE

The United Press  
HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 25.—A daily newspaper from London threatened to publish a story today that he had a "hot" romance with a woman who had been in a pretty good way the night he was shot.  
Clayton Kopp, 35, called the note to Gable two weeks ago, saying the name of the girl was "Mary". He said he was a member of a "secret" society. He said he was in the "secret" society and was doing everything to keep the "secret" society.  
"I did it for the girl," he said. "I did it for the girl, and I wouldn't pay any attention to the fact that she was in the 'secret' society."

*Eon*

*b7C*

9-348276

# Cable Threat Note Writer Arrested

Lowen Confesses He  
Sent Demand  
for \$1000

## INTERCEPTED

Clark Gable, motion picture star, was the named victim of an extortion letter written in French, demanding "5000 or else," the Federal Bureau of Investigation disclosed last night.

The bureau said that the letter, dated Feb. 2, 1936, was intercepted by the FBI, during the night of Feb. 2-3, at the post office at Los Angeles. The letter, which was written in French, demanded "5000 or else," the FBI said.

The letter, which was written in French, demanded "5000 or else," the FBI said.

Mr. Nathan	
Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Egan	
Mr. Gurnea	
Mr. Harbo	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Jones	
Mr. Quinn	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	

b7C

9-348276

LOS ANGELES EXAMINER  
FEB 25 1936

# Cable Extortioner Lays Threat Note To Love Tiff

**BONITA, La., Feb. 25.**—A lusty, unemployed farm worker admitted to federal agents today that he sent a \$1000 extortion note to Eugene Aron Clark Gable to "give" a pretty young widow who wanted his love.

Charles Farnham, 38, president of the union at Cable Inc., signed the names of the 1000 men. He was one of a group of men from the union who were in the plant for doing something else than working the looms.

"I am in the office," he said, "but I am not at home yet. The telephone is now my assistant."

Q-What day did you see the  
personally following person  
up and down the road?  
A-Every day in December  
the previous, and with the  
personnel listed in the  
L. B. Cooper case.  
I have observed that the  
personnel listed in the  
case, the day of December  
was not the day of the

...the only way to get the  
...the only way to get the  
...the only way to get the

...the ... ..  
... ..  
... ..  
... ..  
... ..

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

THE

100

100

100-443887-100



LOS ANGELES  
FEB 26 1950

9-3482-1A



# Says he forged widow's name to Gable threat

FLORIDA, Nov. 24.—(AP)—  
A family manager of a small  
business in Florida says today  
that he was a victim of a threat  
to his business from a man who  
said he was a "Gable" and was  
threatening to kill him.

Charles D. Smith, 40, manager  
of the business, said he was  
threatened by a man who said  
he was a "Gable" and was  
threatening to kill him.

Smith said he was threatened  
by a man who said he was a  
"Gable" and was threatening  
to kill him.

Smith said he was threatened  
by a man who said he was a  
"Gable" and was threatening  
to kill him.

Smith said he was threatened  
by a man who said he was a  
"Gable" and was threatening  
to kill him.

*Extra*  
[Redacted]  
b7C

LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS  
FEB 25 1936

9-34827



## Man Held Over Extortion Note To Clark Gable

POCAHONTAS, Iowa, Friday, Feb. 25.—(AP)—Gaylord Forsyth, 26-year-old farmhand, seized by federal agents investigating a \$1,000 extortion letter sent to Clark Gable, was held in jail today pending action by the United States attorney.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation announced the Poca, Iowa, man wrote a note telling the motion picture actor to pay \$1,000 "if you value your life or your future."

The name of Mrs. Alice Schmitt, a widow living with her parents near Poca, was signed to the note. Both Forsyth and Mrs. Schmitt said the latter knew nothing about the note.

Forsyth, the bureau said, named Mrs. Schmitt's name out of spite because she had ignored his advances. There were no indications as to what place may have been made for obtaining the money. Mrs. Schmitt, 40, the bureau said, had not the money.

Forsyth was named Feb. 24, yesterday at the home of his mother.

Seattle Times  
Seattle, Washington  
February 25, 1935

9-348270

# Put Joe's Name On Cable Threat Man Tells F.B.I.

NEW YORK, Feb. 10 (AP) — A man who says he has information that a cable threat will be made against the life of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, has told the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The man, who gave his name as J. Edgar Hoover, said he had been contacted by a person who offered him \$10,000 to make the threat. He refused the offer and reported the matter to the FBI.

## Agents Seize Farmhand In Gable Letter Threat

They Link \$1,000 Demand to  
Writer's Unrequited Love

MCANULTAS, Iowa, Feb. 25. — Graydon Forsyth, thirty-year-old farmhand seized by Federal agents investigating a \$1,000 extortion letter sent to Clark Gable, was held in jail today pending action by the United States District Attorney.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation announced the Poncha, Iowa, man wrote a note telling the motion picture actor to pay \$1,000 "if you value your life or your future."

The name of Mrs. Alice Schmetter, a widow living with her parents near Poncha, was signed to the note. Both Forsyth and Mrs. Schmetter said the latter knew nothing about the note.

Forsyth, the bureau said, signed Mrs. Schmetter's name out of spite because she had ignored his advances. There were no indications as to what plans may have been made for obtaining the money from Mrs. Schmetter in the event Gable had not the demanded.

Forsyth was seized late yesterday at the home of his mother.

b7C

Clipping from  
NEW YORK HERALD TRIBUNE  
DATE FEB 26 1935

FORWARDED BY NEW YORK TRIBUNE

# Confesses He Put Woman's Name on Note

WASHINGTON, D. C. (AP)—The federal bureau of investigation announced Thursday night it had taken into custody a man alleged to have written an extortion note to Clark Gable.

The man signed the note with the name of a young woman neighbor against whom the man had a "grudge."

The bureau said Gaylord Forsyth, 32, of Fonda, Ia., "confessed to writing" an extortion note to the motion picture actor, demanding payment of \$7,000 "if you value your life or your future."

The note, the bureau said, was written over the signature of Alice Schmetter, also of Fonda.



Clark Gable.

Life threatened in letter.

But Forsyth said she had no knowledge of the "extortion plot" and that he signed the name to the letter as a spite proposition.

"The woman stated, upon questioning," the bureau added, "that she knew nothing about the letter."

Further, the bureau said, was arrested at Fonda and dated Feb. 10.

A copy delivered to Gable at Hollywood, Cal. The letter was referred to the bureau by the actor, the announcement said.

"Forsyth could not admit," the bureau said, "that he had obtained plans for obtaining money from Clark Gable in the event it was mailed to Alice Schmetter."

"Investigation," the bureau said, "revealed that the woman is a woman of loose morals and is a known character in the community."

## From Teller

Forsyth has been employed as a farm laborer in the vicinity of Fonda, the bureau said.

The man will be presented to the United States attorney at Mason City, Ia., the bureau said, adding that Forsyth is being held in the county jail at Pocahontas, Ia., 125 miles northwest of Des Moines.

• • •

## Love Betrayed Him.

Federal agents in Des Moines said Thursday night it was Forsyth's adoration of Miss Schmetter which led indirectly to his arrest.

Some time ago, Miss Schmetter received a letter from a stranger. The stranger explained that he needed that her name was written.

Gable—

Continued on Page Two.

## Gable

Continued From Page 1

on a dollar bill which he was given in change from a larger bill at a Sioux City, Ia., restaurant.

Initials "G. F."

Also on the bill were the initials "G. F." The director who wrote Miss Schmetter explained he was writing merely to tell her about finding the bill with her name on it.

Miss Schmetter told investigating agents about this, and "G. F." was soon identified as Gaylord Forsyth, former civilian construction corps worker.

The Des Moines F.B.I. office said that Forsyth had fallen in love with Miss Schmetter but that she had ignored him and that this bred him.

"And," said an agent in the Des Moines office, "he had been in the many detective agencies."

## DENIES GUILT.

(The Register's Iowa News Service.)

POCAHONTAS, Ia. — Gaylord Forsyth, arrested Thursday afternoon at Fonda, Ia., in connection with an alleged extortion plot involving Clark Gable, the actor, denies he is guilty, according to Deputy C. W. Christ of Pocahontas county.

"He said he didn't know anything about it. He acted surprised," Christ said.

The arrest was made at the home of Forsyth's mother by Christ and Federal Bureau of Investigation Agent O. G. Hall.

Forsyth is booked for investigation at the jail here.

The former farm youth just returned recently from Tampa, Fla., where he was a dishwasher, he told officers. He left Fonda several years ago.



'G' Men Say He Demanded \$1,000 of Film Idol—

# IOWAN HELD IN

# THREAT TO

# GABLE

city law, Des Moines register, 2/25/35  
Des Moines Video Division.

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Jones  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

*E. A. Tamm*

*BT*

62 [REDACTED]

### Writer Of Threat To Gable Is Held

WASHINGTON — The Federal Bureau of Investigation announced Thursday it had arrested a man allegedly to have written an extortion note to Clark Gable, using the name of a woman, neighbor against whom the actor had a "grudge."

The bureau said Richard Foreyth, 34, of Iowa, confessed to writing the extortion note to the movie picture actor demanding payment of \$1,000 "to save your skin and your future."

# FARMER HELD FOR EXTORTION NOTE TO GABLE

Suspect Admits Letter to  
Spoil Pretty Widow,  
Agents Say.

PHOENIX, Jan. 20 (U. P.). — A husky, unimpaired farm worker confined in Federal agents today that he sent a \$1000 extortion note to Clark Gable to spoil a pretty young widow who spurned his love.

Charles Forsyth, 30, mailed the note to Mr. Gable two weeks ago, signing the name of Mrs. Alice Schriener, 20, member of a respected local family. He said he had no plans for doing anything more than sending the letter.

"I did it for spite," he said. "I fell in love with her, but she wouldn't pay any attention to me. Her father wouldn't let me near his place."

Men slipped into this little community yesterday and arrested Forsyth.

L. M. Chipman, chief of the Des Moines office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, said Forsyth, who had no criminal record, was traced through his handwriting.

Mrs. Schriener, he said, was talking about the letter and wife about Forsyth's activities. She told Mr. Chipman she had "one or two" dates with Forsyth a few years ago but had ignored him since then.

Forsyth returned recently from Florida, where he had been employed in a Miami night club.

Since the return, Mrs. Schriener said, she has had no contact with the man, but she has been hearing his name from time to time in the local community.

Chipman said Forsyth denied writing the letter until confronted with the incriminating bill and specimens of his handwriting.

Forsyth's only concern was the effect his arrest would have on his mother and her neighbors.

"Gee," he said, "what will they think?"

Mrs. Forsyth made no statement. The man's arrest followed after he was identified by a letter, postmarked from Florida, Feb. 8 and bearing Mrs. Schriener's home address, was received at the Hollywood studio of Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer.

"If you value your life and your future, then send me \$1000 right away and let me hear from you," it said.

The writer indicated that "her" father was hardpressed for money to maintain his farm and that "she" was going to get funds if "she" had to steal them.

Mr. Gable probably never saw the letter. Professional letter squatters looked at it soon turned it over to studio officials who called up Federal agents.

b7c

RECEIVED

RECEIVED

RECEIVED

Clark Gable, the motion picture actor, received an extortion letter through the United States Mail at Hollywood, California, in which a demand was made for the sum of \$1,000.00. The letter was postmarked Pampa, Iowa, February 9, 1936, and was signed "Alice Schmitter." It contained the statement "If you value your life and your future then send me \$1,000 right away or I will tell the world who you are." The writer of this letter indicated her father, who was a farmer, was here and that she was going to get away from him and to show it. Mr. Gable was worried not to say anything concerning this matter and he was so excited to send the money to the writer of the letter at Route 1, Pampa, Iowa.

This extortion letter was referred to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, at Los Angeles, California, and thereafter Special Agents of the Los Angeles, Iowa, Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation were assigned to initiate an investigation in the vicinity of Pampa.

Through investigation it was determined that one Baylorn Purguth was a likely suspect, and on the afternoon of February 22, 1936, a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation located Purguth at Pampa, Iowa. Upon interview he confessed to writing the extortion letter to Clark Gable, signing the name of Alice Schmitter, whom he had known for the past several years. Purguth could not admit he had additional plans for obtaining the money in the event Clark Gable called the sum to Alice Schmitter, but stated Alice Schmitter did not have any knowledge concerning the extortion list and that he signed her name to the letter as a spite proposition since he had a grudge against her. Investigation disclosed that Alice Schmitter is reputable and comes from a well-to-do family. She stated upon interview that she knew nothing whatsoever about the extortion letter directed to Clark Gable.

On February 23, 1936, an authorized complaint was filed against Purguth before the United States Commissioner at Fort Dodge, Iowa, charging him with violation of the Extortion Statute. He is presently awaiting action of the Federal Grand Jury.

Baylorn Purguth is 30 years of age, single, a resident of Pampa, Iowa, and has been employed as a farm laborer in the vicinity of Pampa.

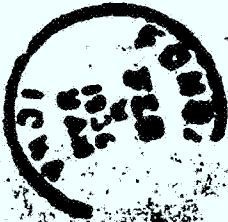
NOT RECORDED

Bureau File No. 9-1422



ARMED AND DANGEROUS TO

Clark, B. D.  
Hollywood  
California



9-3482-46

739 Insurance Exchange Bldg.,  
Des Moines, Iowa.  
March 17, 1938.

Mr. William E. Tanforth,  
Asst. United States Attorney,  
Des Moines City, Iowa.

Dear Sir:

Re: GAYLORD FORSTH;  
CLARK GABLE - Victim.  
EXTORTION.

✓  
Receipt is acknowledged of your letter of  
March 15, 1938, requesting the presence of the Special  
Agent who investigated the above entitled case, at Cedar  
Rapids, on April 5, 1938, in connection with the presenta-  
tion of this case to the Grand Jury. Please be advised  
that arrangements are being made to have Special Agent  
[redacted], who investigated this case, available for the  
Grand Jury.

Relative to our telephone conversation of  
this date, I am enclosing herewith a photostatic copy of  
the original extortion note, together with a photostatic  
copy of the envelope in which the extortion note was sent  
to the Victim from Ponda, Iowa.

Very truly yours,

L. E. CHIFMAN  
Special Agent in Charge

LHC/ml  
9-24  
cc Bureau  
Enc. 2

INDEXED

9-3482-12X

MAR 22 1938

RECEIVED  
MAR 22 1938

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Transmit the following teletype message to:



100-443887-100

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RECEIVED 1964 APR 22 10 10 AM

RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION FROM THE FOLLOWING SOURCE FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSE:

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THAT THE READING OF THE SCROLL WAS MADE PROMPTLY UNTIL AFTER

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**RECEIVED**



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **Los Angeles, California.**

REPORT MADE AT  
**Los Angeles.**

DATE WHEN MADE  
**4/4/38**

PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE  
**2/21, 2/21/38  
2/23/38**

REPORT MADE BY  
**SA E. H. HARRIS**

CHARACTER OF CASE  
**EXTORTION.**

TITLE  
**GAYLOR FOSTER;  
CLARK LARIN - Victim.**

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:**

Instant letter handled at MGM Studio by  
three employees - [redacted]  
and [redacted]

b7C

- P -

**REFERENCE:**

Letter of Los Angeles office to Bureau  
2/21/38; report of Special Agent [redacted]  
Des Moines, Iowa, 2/26/38.

b7C

**DETAILS:**

AT LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

After the receipt of the instant letter from [redacted]  
[redacted], of the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studio at Culver City, California,  
it was ascertained in correspondence with [redacted] that the instant  
letter was handled by the following employees of MGM:

b7C

In view of the developments in this case, the matter of  
obtaining fingerprints of these individuals is not being followed up. Of  
the above persons, [redacted] of the Van Mail Department, received  
and opened the letter in question.

- PENDING -

<p>APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>[Signature]</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE</p> <p>COPIES OF THIS REPORT 3 - Bureau 2 - Des Moines (1-AM, 1-PM, 1-CCNY) 2 - Los Angeles 1 - me 4/4/9</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">9-13482-13</p> <p style="text-align: center;">APR 11 1938</p>
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**Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice**

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover, Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.  
April 22, 1938

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

Re: SPECIAL AGENT [REDACTED]  
ADMINISTRATIVE

b7C  
Dear Sir:

Special Agent [REDACTED] arrived  
at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, at 9:00 A.M., of April  
18, 1938, from the Aberdeen Field Division,  
on Grand Jury subpoena in the case entitled,  
RAYMOND J. [REDACTED]; CLARE [REDACTED] - VICTIM; EXTORTION.  
His address is the Montrose Hotel,  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Very truly yours,

*L. M. Shipman*  
L. M. SHIPMAN  
Special Agent in Charge

LME/nc  
cc Aberdeen

RECORDED

9-348-14  
APR 21 1938 A.M.  
FILE

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

CASE NO. <b>100-11111</b> DATE WHEN MADE <b>4-27-38</b> REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED]</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>37C</b></span>	RECEIVED BY <b>[REDACTED]</b> DATE <b>4-1-38</b>	FILE NO. <b>9-11</b>
TITLE <b>EDWARD J. BRENNAN; ALLEGEDLY - MURDER</b>		
EXTENSION		
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS		
The facts of instant investigation were presented to a Federal Grand Jury at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and a "no bill" was returned by them on April 19, 1938. A disposition sheet is submitted		
- RUC -		
REFERENCE		
Report of Special Agent <b>[REDACTED]</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>67C</b></span> Des Moines, dated 2-20-38.		
DETAILS:		
AT CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA.		
The facts of instant investigation were presented to the Federal Grand Jury at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in the Northern District of Iowa, and a "no bill" was returned by them on April 19, 1938. A disposition sheet is being submitted herewith. The Sheriff at Jockamontas, Iowa, was advised orally of the disposition of this case, when he appeared personally at the Cedar Rapids term of court.		
REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO THE OFFICE OF ORIGIN		
APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <b>[Signature]</b> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE		
COPIES TO BE MADE: <b>9-3422-15</b>		
DATE OF THIS REPORT <b>APR 27 1938</b>		APR 26 1938
COPIES OF THIS REPORT:		
3 Bureau (Inc.) 2 Los Angeles 1 USA New York City 1 Des Moines		

Mr. J. Edgar Hoover  
 Federal Bureau of Investigation  
 United States Department of Justice  
 Washington, D.C.

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
 739 Insurance Exchange Building  
 Des Moines, Iowa  
 (Name and address of contributor)

April 23, 1938  
 (Date)

Dear Sir:

Following are additional records in cases on which fingerprints have been mailed to the Federal Bureau of Investigation:

Bureau File Number	Name, Alias and Number	Arrested or Received	Charge	Disposition
7745	Gayland A. Forsyth #7D-200 USM, Ft. Dodge, Ia.	2/25/38	Extortion	
	Gayland A. Forsyth #3381, PD, Ft. Dodge, Ia.	2/25/38	Extortion	4/19/38 was billed Fed. Grand Jury, Cedar Rapids, Ia.

9-3482-15  
 PKA  
 27

Very truly yours,

*A. W. ...*  
 Special Agent in Charge  
 (Official Title)

(For instructions see reverse side)

9-24

GAYLORD FORSYTH.

b7C [REDACTED]  
b7C {  
April 19, 1938, is indicated as the investigative period covered by the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated at Des Moines April 23, 1938. The report pertains to the presentation of the case to the Grand Jury and the Grand Jury's return "no bill" on the case. According to Agent [REDACTED] daily report for April 19, 1938, he conducted interviews on that date with reference to this case and presented it to the Grand Jury on the same date. It appears consequently that the period for which made is incorrect.

b7C MR. CHITMAN:

The discrepancy above mentioned between Agent [REDACTED] daily report and his investigative report will be brought to his attention upon his return from Washington, D. C., with a view of correcting these discrepancies, so that the investigative reports submitted by him will cover all investigation that he performed on that case.

4-3482-  
Report of Inspector [REDACTED]  
Des Moines, Iowa  
7-24-38  
b7C  
1  
6  
Eln



CLARK GABLE.

IF YOU VALUE YOUR WIFE AND YOUR  
FUTURE THEN SEND ME ONE THOUSAND  
DOLLARS RIGHT AWAY AND TELL NO  
ONE OR ELSE! I AM DISGUISED BY  
WRITING BY PRINTING. SO NOTHING

~~CAN BE PROVED. MY DAD IS WORKING UP~~

ON HIS FARM. AND I'M GOING TO  
GET MONEY IF I HAVE TO STEAL  
IT. SAY NOTHING TO NO ONE OR  
ELSE!

ALICE SCHMETTER  
ROUTE ONE  
KARDA, IOWA.

9-24-32-16

Letter 1  
a demand  
letter, to  
obtain  
right on  
that has  
money is  
concerned  
of the

Investigative  
Division  
of the  
FBI

one of the  
agents of  
the  
FBI  
who is  
in the  
office  
of the  
FBI  
in the  
city of  
Chicago  
and is  
in the  
office  
of the  
FBI  
in the  
city of  
Chicago

one of the  
agents of  
the  
FBI

one of the  
agents of  
the  
FBI

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Washington, D. C.

February 26, 1935

RECEIVED

Clark Gable, the motion picture actor, received an extortion letter through the United States mails at Hollywood, California, in which a demand was made for the sum of \$1,000. The letter, postmarked Pank, Tenn., February 2, 1935, was signed Alice Schmitter and contained the statement "If you value your life and your future then send me \$1,000 right away and tell no one or else." The writer of this letter indicated that her father was laid up on his farm and that she was going to get money if she had to steal it. Mr. Gable was worried not to say anything concerning this matter and was instructed to send the money to the writer of the letter at Route 1, Pank, Tenn.

This extortion letter was referred to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Department of Justice, at Los Angeles, California, and thereafter Special Agents of the Los Angeles, Tenn. office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation were assigned to initiate an investigation in the vicinity of Pank, Tenn.

Through investigation it was determined that one Herbert Burgh was a frequent contact and on the afternoon of February 21, 1935, a Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation returned to Pank, Tenn. Upon interrogation he confessed to writing the extortion letter to Clark Gable, signing the name of Alice Schmitter, Route 1, Pank, Tenn., that he has known her for the past several years. Burgh would not admit that he had additional plans for obtaining the money from Clark Gable in the event it was mailed to Alice Schmitter, but stated that Alice Schmitter did not have any knowledge concerning the extortion plot and that he signed her name to the letter as a spite proposition as he had a grudge against her. He also stated that Alice Schmitter had nothing to do with this extortion plot, and investigation disclosed that she is respectable and does not wish to be known as a prostitute. Upon interrogation, that she was willing to accept the extortion letter directed to Clark Gable.

It was further determined that one John Smith, a resident of Pank, Tenn., was a frequent contact of Burgh in the vicinity of Pank, Tenn. Smith was also a frequent contact of Burgh in the vicinity of Pank, Tenn.

It was further determined that Smith was a frequent contact of Burgh in the vicinity of Pank, Tenn. Smith was also a frequent contact of Burgh in the vicinity of Pank, Tenn.

Press  
Release

7-3482

**FILE DESCRIPTION**

**SUBJECT** Clark Gable

**FILE NO.** 9-41005

190- 36269-

Encl.

1300 Liberty Street Building  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

August 11, 1935

7-10-35  
9-C

Special Agent in Charge,  
Bureau, New Jersey

Dear Sir:

An individual describing himself as [REDACTED], gave himself up to the Philadelphia Police Department, admitting that he had written a threatening letter, to value \$5,000.00, to "Clayton" a/o M.M. Studios, Hollywood, California.

b7C [REDACTED] stated that this letter was deposited in a mail box at Trenton, N. J. without a postage stamp on the morning of August 9, 1935.

Although [REDACTED] is apparently a "nut", it is believed that he may have written such a letter and that this letter might, in the future, be referred to the Newark Division for information. It is therefore suggested that inquiries be made at the post office office of the Trenton Post Office to determine whether this letter has been received.

Very truly yours,

A. P. MULLIN  
Special Agent in Charge

RECORDED  
INDEXED

9-4005-1

2 1935



Newark, New Jersey  
September 7, 1935

W  
JCS:ml  
9-177

Special Agent in Charge  
Philadelphia, Pa.

Dear Sir:

b7C  
Reference is made to your letter of August 28, 1935, in which you advise that one [redacted], gave himself up to the Philadelphia Police Department and admitted that he had written a threatening letter to [redacted] in care of the H. B. M. STUDIO, Hollywood, California, demanding \$5000.00; that this letter was mailed in Trenton, New Jersey [redacted] a postage stamp, on the morning of August 9, 1935.

b7C  
On August 27, 1935, Special Agent [redacted] of this office, interviewed [redacted], who is in charge of the "dead" letter section of the Post Office in Trenton. He recalls seeing the above letter two or three days previous to the interview. He recalled that the letter was addressed to CLARE GABLE, and there was no stamp nor return address. On the back of the envelope was the statement, "This is a black-hand letter." The letter itself was written in a childish script and bore a simple statement demanding \$5000.00 and said that a pay-off spot would be designated later on. [redacted] was asked to advise if anyone else in the Post Office and recalled remarking that someone was trying to get some money from CLARE GABLE. He definitely recalled that the letter contained no threats of any kind and was unsigned. Since there were no threats in the letter, he destroyed it.

Since there appears to be no violation over which the Bureau has jurisdiction, this matter is being considered closed.

Very truly yours,

A. P. FITZGER,  
Special Agent in Charge.

RECEIVED  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

SEP 10 1936

TELETYPE

FBI INDIANAPOLIS 9-10-36 1-40 PM ELA

DIRECTOR

CLARK GABLE VICTIM, EXTORTION.

SUBJECT IN CUSTODY INDIANAPOLIS PD AS VAGRANT ADVISES THAT ON AUGUST THIRTIETH LAST HE SENT NOTE ON GOVERNMENT POSTCARD TO CLARK GABLE CARE MGM STUDIOS HOLLYWOOD CALIFORNIA DEMANDING PAYMENT OF TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS UNDER IMPLIED THREAT OF BODILY HARM SIGNED BLACK HAND. CARD SENT FROM DOYLESTOWN OHIO. LOS ANGELES REQUESTED BY TELETYPE TO VERIFY

REINECKE

END

FM FBI WASHINGTON DC CH

9-4005-2

SEP 14 1936

TELEGRAM	TELETYPE
DAY LETTER	NIGHT LETTER
DAY LETTER	NIGHT LETTER
DAY LETTER	NIGHT LETTER
DAY LETTER	NIGHT LETTER
DAY LETTER	NIGHT LETTER
DAY LETTER	NIGHT LETTER
DAY LETTER	NIGHT LETTER
DAY LETTER	NIGHT LETTER
DAY LETTER	NIGHT LETTER

# WESTERN UNION

TO
FROM
AMOUNT PAID
TIME PAID

W. U. UNION  
MEMBER

WESTERN UNION  
MEMBER

W. U. UNION  
MEMBER

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

Los Angeles, Calif.  
September 30, 1938.

B. E. REINECKE  
FBI  
323 FEDERAL BLDG  
INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

57C ~~RECEIVED~~ RE EXTORTION FORSCARD APPARENTLY DID NOT COME TO ATTENTION  
WHEN OFFICIALS WERE MAKING FURTHER CHECK UNABLE ADVISE UNTIL MONDAY

RECEIVED

OFF. BUS. GOVT. RATE  
SEP 31  
64: Bureau

9-4005-3  
SEP 30 1938  
UNION

WESTERN UNION TELEPHONE CO. OF AMERICA  
WESTERN UNION TELEPHONE CO. OF AMERICA



STANDARD FORM NO. 64  
ISSUED BY THE POSTAGE  
SERVICE

# TELEGRAM

OFFICIAL BUSINESS—GOVERNMENT RATES

9-405

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
CHAS. FRI, 600 S SPRING BUILDING  
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

SEPTEMBER 12, 1938 11:50 AM

TELEGRAM VIA POSTAL TELEGRAPH

U S DEPT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
200 FEDERAL BUILDING  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN

*b7C*  
[REDACTED] RE RECEPTION UNABLE FIND RECORD RECEIPT POSTCARD

NOTE. NO INSPECTOR NAME SUBJECTS CONTACT WITH PO INSPECTOR IN CHARGE  
MINNEAPOLIS. SUGGEST YOU DO WILL IF NOT ALREADY DONE

BARSON

RECEIVED

9-12-38

CC - Bureau

9-4005-

SEP 10 1938

*[Signature]*



100-443881-100

67c

\_\_\_\_\_

Reference is made to your letter dated September 11, 1938, requesting that the FBI Office inspect at Cincinnati in connection with reference to instant case.

670

IN THIS MATTER, THIS ENTRY IS BEING REOPENED AS REFERRING TO

[illegible]

96

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

WFO:ala

Transmit the following Teletype Message to: LOS ANGELES

67C  
FBI Indianapolis 9-10-36 4:15 P. M.

SAC LOS ALAMOS

URGENT 9-10-36 4:15 P. M.  
RE: CLARE GALE VICTOR, MONTANA.  
SUBJECT IN CONTACT OF INDIANAPOLIS INDIANA SO AS URGENT ADVISE  
THAT HE ALMOST CERTAINLY LEFT IN STATE OF CALIFORNIA 9-10-36 AND CLARE  
GALE SON OF JIM GALE, MILLERS FALLS CALIFORNIA. INDICATED THAT  
HE WAS IN LOS ANGELES AT 11:00 A.M. 9-10-36 AND WAS TO BE GIVEN BY PETER  
LUTHER. THIS GUY WAS DESCRIBED AS WHITE OF BUILDY WITH WAS WEARS U.  
S. AIR FORCE PANTS AND WAS WEARING SHOES AND HAD BLACK HAIR.  
CLARE VICTOR TOLD THE FBI IN INDIANAPOLIS ABOUT 9:00 A.M. 9-10-36  
AND ADVISE THIS OFFICE IF CASE DEVELOPS.

END

INDEXED

9-4005  
SEP 10 1936



Indianapolis, Indiana  
September 18, 1936

AIR MAIL

MEMPHIS  
9-117

Special Agent in Charge  
Cincinnati, Ohio

b7c

Re: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~  
JACK CARROLL, Victim  
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

Dear Sir:

The above-named subject who is in custody of the Indianapolis, Indiana, police department on a charge of burglary, has advised that on August 25, 1936, he sent an extortion note to JACK CARROLL, care of U-S-B Station, Hollywood, California, demanding \$10,000 to be paid to the Brown Party. This note was due on a date to be given by further letter. This note was on a Government postal card and was allegedly mailed by subject from Dayton, Ohio. It was signed "White Head," and according to subject contained a parallel tracing of the fingers of his left hand on the lower part of the card.

Subject has given specimens of his handwriting, using the wording he used in the extortion note as he now remembers it. It is noted from the specimens given by subject that the wording is as follows:

"... CARROLL, if you know what is good for you, you will do as I say. You will get \$10,000 in small bills, without any paper cover, and do not notify the police because I will be watching them. Meet me at Brown Party. Later I will give further instructions."

INDEX

Signed: JACK CARROLL

Investigation in the district covered by the Los Angeles Division has failed to find evidence of the sending of a postcard or a telegram dated September 18, 1936, that by the subject to a telephone number in Los Angeles. The Los Angeles Division is being requested to contact the telephone company in charge of Cincinnati, Ohio, to determine

WFO, Cincinnati, 103-

September 13, 1937

Whether such a card has come to his attention, and if so, determine its present whereabouts. Please to this end notify this office by return mail as the trial of subject on a charge of conspiracy at Indianapolis, Indiana, is set for September 22, 1937, at which time the Indianapolis police department expects to see the subject.

The Cleveland office should also determine if subject has been seen at any place in the vicinity of the above card was allegedly mailed on August 30, 1937, to determine whether this card came to his attention, and if so, whether because of the nature of the message he gave the card directly to any particular post office inspector. If so, the Cleveland office should set out leads to determine the present location of this card.

The Cleveland office is also requested to notify the Indianapolis office by return mail of the results of investigation in that district.

Very truly yours,

Harold E. Johnson  
Special Agent in Charge

cc Bureau  
Cleveland (103-11)



LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

Dec. 12, 1938

Special Agent in Charge,  
Indianapolis, Indiana.

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1992

Reference is made to your teletype of September 10th, 1936, concerning the above-named subject who was reported to be in custody of the Indianapolis, Indiana, Police Department, and who had admitted mailing to CHAS. HENRI a postcard from Baltimore, Md., in which he demanded the sum of \$10,000.00.

Immediately upon receipt of your teletype, conversation was had with [redacted] of the Legal Department of the Motor-Vehicles-Boys Studio, who was made acquainted with the substance of the subject and in the event thereof with a picture had done to the attention. [redacted] stated that it had not been that he would immediately cause an inquiry to be made in the San Hall Department of the Motor-Vehicles-Boys Studio to determine if with a picture had been received. Several hours later, [redacted] was contacted from [redacted] in the effect that he had not yet this in [redacted] with a picture, and that he was able to furnish information that it was contained at the [redacted] [redacted] that [redacted] that [redacted]

[illegible]

\_\_\_\_\_ indicated that it was his opinion  
this person had never been present at the MULLS.

Special Agent in Charge,  
Indianapolis.

-2-

September 12, 1938

On September 12, 1938 it was possible to contact [REDACTED], Chief of Police at the Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studio, who likewise stated that he had not heard anything as this postcard and he felt that if it had been received at the Studio it would have come to either his attention or the attention of the Legal Department.

b7C [REDACTED] also stated that it was very unlikely that this postcard would have come to the attention of the victim, CLAY GABLE, who, he stated, is out of the city at this time. [REDACTED] also said that he is certain that if MR. GABLE had received the card he would immediately have called [REDACTED] about the matter. [REDACTED] stated that upon MR. GABLE'S return to the city he would ascertain if MR. GABLE knew anything about the card.

b7C Thinking that since the extortion demand had been written on an open-faced postcard, it might have come to the attention of the Post Office Inspectors in Los Angeles, I communicated with Post Office Inspector [REDACTED] who stated that he had heard nothing of the sort. He said that since it is customary for the mail carriers and postal clerks to read all postcards, they were then likely would have this question of it if they had noticed a card of this kind with a black mark on it, and that it was possible that some postal employee in Chicago might have removed it from the mails and forwarded it to some Post Office Inspector in Ohio. For this reason, in my telegram to you dated September 12th, 1938, I suggested that you make inquiry of the Chief Post Office Inspector in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Very truly yours,

J. E. HENNES,  
Special Agent in Charge.

JEH:MS

9-12-38

cc: Bureau

AIR MAIL - SPEC. DEL.

Cleveland, Ohio

September 12, 1936

Special Agent in Charge  
Indianapolis, Indiana

Re: CLARK GABLE, Victim. KIDNAPING

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to letter of the Indianapolis office dated September 12, 1936. Postmaster of the Post Office telephonically advised this office that he had shared with all of his employees and that neither he nor they have ever noticed a post card being sent through that office addressed to CLARK GABLE and signed "Black Hand."

In view of the above information this matter is being considered referred upon completion to the office of origin.

Very truly yours,

AL BROWN

Special Agent in Charge

FLB:ah  
9-118  
AM:ad  
cc Bureau  
Cincinnati

9-4005



# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **Indianapolis, Indiana**

FILE NO.

REPORT MADE AT <b>Indianapolis, Indiana</b>	DATE WHEN MADE <b>10-3-32</b>	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE <b>9-10, 11, 12, 1932</b>	REPORT MADE BY <b>[REDACTED] b7C</b>
TITLE <b>[REDACTED] b7C</b>			CHARACTER OF CASE
NAME OF VICTIM <b>CLARE GABLE, Victim.</b>			

**SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:** Subject arrested on warrant by the Indiana State Police Department on 8-10-32. He advised that on 8-10-32 he sent a note on a plain Government postal card to **CLARE GABLE**, care of H.C.W. Studio, Hollywood, Calif., demanding payment of \$10,000 under an implied threat of bodily harm if the demand should not be met. The card, mailed from Doylestown, Ohio, was, according to subject, signed "Black Hand," and contained a tracing of subject's left hand as the lower portion of the card. Los Angeles office advises unable to find any record or receipt of aforesaid card. Suggests contacting post office inspectors, Cincinnati, Ohio, [REDACTED] vicinity trial set Indianapolis, Ind., for 9-28-32. Indianapolis office subsequently advised by Cleveland and Cincinnati field divisions that investigation their districts fails to locate alleged postal card. Indianapolis is notified of failure to locate card. [REDACTED] picked up by Terre Haute, Ind., police evening 9-27-32, claiming to have been injured by two men with whom he caught a ride and again made statement that he had sent extortion letter to **CLARE GABLE**.

This investigation predicated upon a telephonic call from Detective Sergeant [REDACTED] of the Indiana State Police Department, who called Special Agent S. BELMONT on September 10, 1932, and advised that the

APPROVED AND FORWARDED <b>[Signature]</b>		DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		40-2-1
1 Bureau		1007-1-1
2 Los Angeles (1 Inc.)		
2 Cleveland (1 Inc.)		
1 Cincinnati		
1 Indianapolis		



The writer proceeded to the residence of [redacted] and [redacted], who were interviewed. [redacted] and [redacted] both of whom are attached to the Indiana State Police Department, Indianapolis, Indiana, Police Department. Mr. McCARTHY stated that during the early morning hours of September 1, 1935, [redacted] and [redacted] of the [redacted] County by officers [redacted] and [redacted] of the [redacted] Indiana, Police Department when they were [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] just before the early hours of [redacted] with a bump on his head and a swollen right fist. [redacted] explained that subject had informed the officers that he had taken a ride to Indianapolis from Cincinnati, Ohio, and had apparently been hit on the head, robbed, and thrown from the car by the two men who had given a ride to subject at Cincinnati, Ohio. According to [redacted] subject claimed not to have known exactly who did happen to him, but stated that one of the persons who had given him a ride had been riding in the back of the car while the second man did the driving, and that apparently Mr. subject, had been slugged from the rear. [redacted] stated that subject somewhat resembled the description of a suspect in a holdup in Indianapolis, and that for this reason the officers of the Indianapolis Police Department had taken subject into custody and booked him as a vagrant after failing to get an identification in the robbery in question.

██████████ continued that in questioning subject about his past whereabouts and criminal activities, subject had admitted to them that on August 30, 1935, he had sent an extortion note to CLARK GABLE, care of M. G. M. Studios, Hollywood, California, which note was mailed from Boyleston, Ohio, and demanded the sum of \$10,000.

Further advised that because of this admission he has arranged to have subject's temporary bail continued until September 22, 1936, and had subject placed under \$1,000 bond. He is presently confined in the Marion County, Indiana, jail in lieu of bond.

Def Detective Sergeant [redacted] and [redacted]. At this time subject gave the following written statement which is being retained in the files of the Indianapolis office at the present time:

Indianapolis, Indiana  
9-10-88

also known as [REDACTED] freely and voluntarily.

Said [redacted] statements to [redacted] at [redacted]  
to [redacted] of the [redacted] of [redacted] [redacted]  
that I do not have to make a statement, or that anything - say we  
we were arrested in a court of law. No promises or threats were  
made to induce me to make a statement.

[redacted] April 10, 1968

I am 24 years of age, having been born April 12, 1914, in New York City. I have been residing with my parents, [redacted] at the above town of Rochester, New York, for [redacted] years with the exception of the time I ran away at about 16 years of age. I ran away at that time for my sister, and after being in the streets for some time, I was taken back to my home by the police. I ran away again for the same reason in 1934, when I was 20 years of age. I was taken back to my home by the police. I have been on a farm operating a family land since [redacted] until the early part of 1939, when I was 24 years of age. I am now 34, 1939, intending to hitchhike to New York City.

I left home again on July 14, 1935, intending to hitchhike to California. I was picked up by State Police at New Brunswick, N. J. on the same date, and was sentenced to 30 days at the County Workhouse at New Brunswick on a charge of vagrancy. I was released after 20 days, and finally arrived at Garbertown, Ohio on August 27, 1935. At this city I fainted on the highway and was taken to the Citizen's Hospital, where I stayed until August 30, 1935. At the hospital I met a man named [redacted] [redacted] the day

While I was in the hospital I met a man named [redacted] of the Acoster Rd. E. Bartertown, Ohio. He was released the day before I was. After I was released I went to visit him at his home. While I was there he gave me a card issued by the U. S. Government and told me I could write home on it, and told the family I was coming home to California -- he having the impression I lived there.

While I had been in the hospital I had been reading Detective magazines and I had also seen CLARK GABLE's picture in a movie magazine, which I believe to be the Screen Guide. I had at this time conceived the idea of sending CLARK GABLE a letter with a note demanding the sum of \$10,000.

When I got this postcard from [redacted] his young son (now known to be was present) in [redacted] bedroom on August 20, 1935 -- and in his presence and that of a son about 16 or 17 years of age I wrote a note on the back of this card which -- so near as I can recall read as follows:

"If you know what is good for you, call on me. You will get \$10,000. in small bills. nowhere not taken now. I will meet you at the Brown Party. Do not notify the Police. I will be watching for them. I will send you another letter if you want day to be at the Brown Party

Signed "Black Hand"

Signed: Jack Sand



...the fact that the subject was not registered there under the name of [redacted] ...  
...the fact that the subject was not registered there under the name of [redacted] ...  
...the fact that the subject was not registered there under the name of [redacted] ...

It should be noted that the subject stated that the words of the note were not his own, but that he had seen them in the statement previously mentioned, and that he had signed it, although he was not permitted to sign it. He stated that subject gave this warning on the location where he was arrested, and he was not permitted to sign it. He signed statement at the time he was arrested, and he was not permitted to sign it. In the event an original copy of the note should be obtained, it will in all probability be necessary to obtain additional specimens of his handwriting at a later date.

b7C It should be noted that the subject stated that he was in the hospital in Barboursburg, Md., he was registered there under the name of [redacted]. Subject claims that he does not even know if there is a Jefferson Street in Los Angeles, California, but that he intended to proceed to Los Angeles when he left his home, and decided to give this fictitious address when he entered the hospital.

b7C Besides the fact that subject was questioned at length, he stated that his story of sending this extortion note is not merely a hoax, and that he actually did send the note from New York, N.Y. When questioned as to his motive for informing officers of his implication in this case, he stated that it had bothered his conscience and he decided to inform the police while he was being questioned.

From records in the Indianapolis, Indiana, police department, from observation and from interrogation, the following description of subject was obtained:

Age:	24
Nativity:	New York City
Residence:	7422 Janice Avenue, Woodhaven, L. I.
Height:	5' 10"
Weight:	165
Build:	Medium
Racial Features:	Polished
Hair:	Dark
Eyes:	Chestnut Brown
Teeth:	Good



[illegible]

REPORT  
NO. 100  
1950

FOIA b (7)(C) - Exemption from disclosure of information that would reveal the identity of confidential sources, the methods and techniques of investigation, or information that would reveal the identity of confidential informants or the methods and techniques of investigation.

Indianapolis, Indiana, 1943, 311.  
Arrested for vagrancy at  
Chicago, and sentenced, 1943, 1943.  
1943. Released both periods.  
and in 1943 and 1943 in  
New Brunswick, New Jersey, 1943  
of 30-day term, sentenced 1943, 1943  
Cecil, Pennsylvania, 1943, 1943  
vagrancy, 10 days.

b7c Detective Sergeant [redacted] gave the writer four photographs of subject, one of which is being transmitted to Cleveland for possible future use, one to Los Angeles for possible future use. Two are being retained in the Indianapolis file.

The criminal record of subject is being requested from the Superior.

inasmuch as investigation by memo had failed to reveal the authenticity of the original extortion note, no leads were set out for the Cleveland field division at Berberthorn, Ohio, at this time.

On September 10, 1938, the Bureau and Los Angeles field divisions were notified by teletype of the abduction of Edward G. Bremer and the Los Angeles field division was requested to verify the receipt of the above postal card there. The Los Angeles field division advised the Indianapolis field division that the post office head at Los Angeles, California, had located contact with the post office inspector in charge at Indianapolis, where, in 1934, a similar note had come to the attention in any manner and a determination to present whereabouts of the note if it actually arrived.

A special delivery letter was transmitted to the New York field division on September 18, 1938, requesting that field division to contact the post office inspector in charge in that city of this note, and a carbon copy of the letter was designated to Cleveland field division requesting that division to contact postmaster at Doylestown, Ohio, to determine whether such a

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 05-11-2010 BY 60322 UCBAW

The Cleveland field division notified the Indianapolis field division by letter dated September 18, 1936, that the postmaster at Doylestown, Ohio, had telephonically advised the Cleveland division that a check of all the mail boxes had failed to indicate that any of them had noticed a postal card being sent through the post office addressed to CLARA GALE and containing the message which subject states he wrote to Mr. GIBBY from Doylestown, Ohio.

67C

$$b\pi \}$$

b7C

- 7 -

OCT 22 1933

Special Agent in Charge  
Indianapolis, Indiana

b7C

ALL

RECEIVED

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the report of Special Agent [redacted] dated October 3, 1933, at Indianapolis, Indiana, containing information that [redacted] has advised that he sent through the mail an extortion letter to Clara Gable on August 30, 1932, although subsequent investigation failed to reveal any trace of such message. It is noted from reference report that handwriting specimens were obtained from [redacted], such being not retained in the Indianapolis Division file with regard to this matter.

You are advised that an individual giving the name of [redacted] previously reported to the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Police Department that he mailed an extortion note to Clara Gable at Trenton, New Jersey, on August 9, 1932, which note likewise could not be located.

In view of the above circumstances, the Bureau desires that the handwriting specimens obtained by you be furnished to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for appropriate search through the authentic extortion writings maintained on file, inasmuch as this procedure might effect an identification with regard to [redacted] although as yet unidentified. It is also desired that if [redacted] is not available, he be reinterviewed at which time appropriate handwriting specimens should be secured from him in both upper and lower case letters for comparison with the [redacted] specimens. [redacted] specimens of [redacted] handwriting should be secured from him in both upper and lower case letters for comparison with the [redacted] specimens. This matter is given [redacted] attention.

MAILED

OCT 22 1933

RECEIVED

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover  
Director

110



**Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Indianapolis, Indiana**

EX-111  
9-117

October 3, 1936

Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
United States Department of Justice,  
Washington, D. C.

No: [REDACTED]

CLAY GABLE, Victim.  
KIDNAPING

Dear Sir:

Kindly furnish the known criminal record of the following:

Name (inc. aliases)	City, Police Arrest, or Other Number.	Approximate date Fin- gerprints forwarded Federal Bureau of In- vestigation.	Fingerprint Classifica- tion.
[REDACTED]	Indianapolis, Ind.	6-10-36	

Indianapolis, Ind.

6-10-36

Very truly yours,

*[Signature]*  
Special Agent in Charge





FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

26221

Laboratory Report

Case:

b7C

[REDACTED] with alias;  
CLARK GABLE, Victim;  
EXTORTION

Number:

9-4803-5

Specimens:

b7C

9-4803-5 X 1 Known handwriting of [REDACTED] consisting of handwriting  
on five postal cards.

Examination requested by: Indianapolis

Date received:

10/27/38 (received 10/26/38 at 2:00 P.M.)

Examination requested:

Document

b7C

Result of examination:

Examination by:

b7C

Note: Bureau letter of October 22, 1938 requested that [REDACTED] handwriting  
be furnished to the Bureau's Technical Laboratory for appropriate search  
through the anonymous extortion file.

R.

Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Indianapolis, Indiana

RECEIVED  
9-117

October 25, 1938

✓ Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

b7C

Re: [REDACTED], with  
alias,  
CLARK GABLE, Victim.  
EXTORTION.

Dear Sir:

As requested in Bureau letter of October 22,  
1938 (9-4005) there are inclosed specimens of the hand-  
writing of subject [REDACTED] which comprise  
five Government postal cards.

b7C

It is believed that [REDACTED] is no longer in  
contact with this Division and, therefore, is probably  
not available for further specimens, but the Terre  
Haute, Indiana, police department, is being communi-  
cated with in this regard and the Bureau will be  
kept advised.

Very truly yours,

*Harold H. Kennedy*  
Harold H. Kennedy  
Special Agent in Charge

9-4005-5  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION



**Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Indianapolis, Indiana**

WFF:ELJH  
9-117

October 25, 1938

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

b7C Re: [REDACTED] with  
alias; CLARK GABLE, Victim.  
EXTORTION.

Dear Sir:

Further reference is made to Bureau letter  
of October 22, 1938 (9-4895) and my reply thereto  
of October 23, 1938, which transmitted handwriting  
specimens of subject [REDACTED].

b7C I am now in receipt of a communication  
from [REDACTED], chief of detectives,  
Bureau of Investigation, where [REDACTED] was last known  
to be in custody, which states that he was released  
October 23, 1938, and it is believed that he has  
left the city.

Under the circumstances no further hand-  
writing specimens are available at this time and the  
matter is considered closed in the Indianapolis  
office.

Very truly yours,

*W. A. Riney*

Special Agent in Charge

Indianapolis, Indiana

Approved and Forwarded

Special Agent in Charge

Indianapolis, Indiana

October 25, 1938

WFF:ELJH

9-117

100-44895-6



00717

December 9, 1938

9-4220-0

Special Agent in Charge  
Birmingham, Alabama

b7c

Not ~~communicated~~ with client  
Earl Davis - Victim  
Birmingham

Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith the laboratory report  
showing the examination of specimens submitted to your office  
in connection with the above entitled matter and received in  
the Bureau January 20, 1939.

Very truly yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

Special Agent in Charge

Bureau



~~SECRET~~

## Laboratory Report

1959

Number: 100-100000

with alias; Clerk Cable -  
Foster; Subversion.

Specimens: 21. Paper handwriting of [REDACTED] consisting of  
handwriting on five postal cards.

Examination requested by: Indianapolis

Date rec'd: 10/17/79

**Investigation Report:** [REDACTED]

**REPORT OF PROGRESS**

Examination by:

7C No such negative impression of [redacted] has been  
made from the numerous letter files maintained by the Laboratory  
in connection with this investigation.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAR 6 1939

TELETYPE

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. E. A. Tamm  
Mr. Clegg  
Mr. Coffey  
Mr. Glavin  
Mr. Ladd  
Mr. Nichols  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tracy  
Mr. Carson  
Mr. Egan  
Mr. Gurnea  
Mr. Hendon  
Mr. Pennington  
Mr. Quinn  
Mr. Nease  
Miss Gandy

9-4215-8

FBI ST LOUIS

3-6-39

L 1-45

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DIRECTOR

SAC LOS ANGELES

RECORDED

INDEXED

MAR 7

b7C

CLARK

b7C O CABLE. VICTIM. EXTORTION. [REDACTED] THIS OFFICE SAV[REDACTED]  
LOITERING IN CORRIDOR NEAR ST LOUIS BUREAU OFFICE, FOLLOWED HIM TO  
ELEVATOR INVITING HIM TO RETURN TO ST LOUIS OFFICE AFTER SHORT  
CONVERSATION WITH HIM WHERE HE FURNISHED INFORMATION TO EFFECT THAT  
HE AND OTHER SUBJECTS WHILE RESIDING AT THREE FIVE ONE NORTH SEVENTEENTH  
STREET, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, PLANNED TO OBTAIN FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM  
CLARK GABLE BY WRITING HIM THREATENING LETTER. [REDACTED] STATES [REDACTED]  
AND [REDACTED] BROTHERS LEFT CHICAGO FOR LOS ANGELES TWO WEEKS AGO TODAY  
AND UPON ARRIVAL THERE WERE TO RESIDE AT NINE FIVE TWO JEFFERSON AVENUE,  
LOS ANGELES WHERE THEY WERE TO AWAIT RECEIPT OF TELEGRAM FROM [REDACTED]  
SENT FROM ST LOUIS AT WHICH TIME THEY WOULD KNOW HE HAD MAILED LETTER  
TO CLARK GABLE. [REDACTED] STATES HE MAILED THIS LETTER AT ONE PM MARCH  
EIGHT LAST AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, DEMANDING FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS,  
[REDACTED] TELEGRAM TO OTHER SUBJECTS FROM ST LOUIS THIS MORNING.  
[REDACTED] MAKE COMPLETE PLAN TO COLLECT THE MONEY AFTER RECEIPT  
[REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] AWAIT ARRIVAL OF [REDACTED] WHO WAS TO  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] LETTER TO GABLE IN INSTANCES AS  
FOLLOWS QUOTE MR. CLARK GABLE, CARE OF BEN JEFFERSON, LOS ANGELES CITY  
CALIFORNIA, DEAR MR. GABLE AS I SAY IF YOU KNOW THAT IS GOOD FOR  
YOU. YOU WILL HAVE FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS FROM [REDACTED] AND DO NOT WASTE



RECEIVED  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
WASHINGTON, D. C.  
MAY 10 1936  
TELETYPE

PAGE TWO

THE POLICE OR G MEN. YOU WILL RECEIVE LATER LETTER GIVING YOU  
MORE INSTRUCTIONS. SIGNED BLACK HAND UNQUOTE. [REDACTED] EXPLAINED  
THAT SIGNATURE WAS ALSO ACCOMPANIED BY DRAWING OF A BLACK HAND.

67C

[REDACTED]

LOS ANGELES OFFICE  
[REDACTED] AND SECRETARIES WHO HANDLE  
[REDACTED] ABOVE QUOTED LETTER HAS BEEN RECEIVED,  
[REDACTED] HAVE BEEN MADE TO COLLECT MONEY FROM [REDACTED] AND  
[REDACTED] INVESTIGATION APPROXIMATELY [REDACTED] SUBJECTS.  
ON COMPLETION OF INVESTIGATION SUBMIT FACTS TO USA LOS ANGELES  
FOR OPINION AS TO PROSECUTION. FURNISH IMMEDIATE ADVICE AS TO  
WHETHER USA LOS ANGELES AUTHORITY FOR PROSECUTION OF ZEIGER, AMOUNT OF